



NEWS RELEASE

Abbotsford Top Local Earth Hour Reducer

ABBOTSFORD March 30, 2009 – Abbotsford recorded the highest percentage in reduction of power consumption for the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley regions on Saturday night, announced Mayor George W. Peary today.

“Lights were turned-off across much of Abbotsford Saturday night to mark Earth Hour,” said Peary. “Overall our City achieved a 3.8 per cent drop in power consumption – one of highest across the province!”

Organized by WWF and sponsored locally in part by BC Hydro, Earth Hour is an annual global effort to address climate change that emphasizes the importance of understanding that individual participation and simple changes can make a big difference to the planet.

“Events like Earth Hour create awareness of the benefits of reducing energy consumption in local communities and across the globe,” said Peary. “Lowering consumption is such a basic exercise, and one we should all practice more frequently - household by household, it all adds up.”

If British Columbians implemented the same conservation measures just one hour every evening, the combined savings would be enough to power more than 2,400 homes for an entire year.

British Columbia as a whole saved 72.67 megawatts of electricity from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., the equivalent of turning off 1.5 million lights. Eighty four communities throughout the province participated in Earth Hour this year.

Overall, Abbotsford was number six on the list of top reducers, falling just below the top five reduction cities of Pemberton, Colwood, Langford, Parksville and View Royal.

For more information on Earth Hour and complete BC Earth Hour results, visit BC Hydro at www.bchydro.com.

-30-

For more information contact:

Katherine Jeffcoatt
Manager, Corporate Communications and Marketing
E: kjeffcoatt@abbotsford.ca
Tel: 604-864-5564